

Appl. No. 10/016,532
Response dated March 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated December 18, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Abstract (page 23, lines 2-21) as follows:

~~The present invention is directed to a gastrostomy device comprising: A~~
~~gastrostomy device includes a tubular portion defining a longitudinal axis; and an~~
~~internal bolster having a radial wing secured to the tubular portion; the internal bolster~~
~~being flexible to permit. The internal bolster is flexible and permits elastic deformation~~
~~between a first orientation generally aligned with the longitudinal axis; with the wing~~
~~wrapped into a generally cylindrical configuration and a second orientation with the wing~~
~~unfurled and extending generally transverse to the tubular portion longitudinal axis and~~
~~a. A constraining member encasing encases the internal bolster to retain the internal~~
~~bolster in the first orientation; with the wing wrapped into the generally cylindrical~~
~~configuration; and to cover at least a major portion of the wrapped wing; wherein the~~
~~removal. Removal of the casing permits the internal bolster to move from the first~~
~~orientation to the second orientation. The internal bolster may be deployed by the use~~
~~of a ripcord to tear through the wall of the capsule, freeing the internal bolster of the~~
~~gastrostomy device into the patient's stomach and deploying the internal bolster to a the~~
~~second orientation with the wing unfurled and extending generally transverse to said~~
~~tubular portion longitudinal axis. Alternatively, the internal bolster may be deployed by~~
~~the constraining member being dissolved by the patient's bodily fluids located inside the~~
~~patient's stomach.~~

Please add the following paragraph at page 6, line 6:

FIG. 12 illustrates the gastrostomy feeding device having a double loop ripcord arrangement according to an aspect of the present invention.